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Prologue

Carefully placed paw steps broke the still air of the night. The shimmering form of a shecat broke the through the darkness. Her pelt ripped like waves in a pond, her form as clear as clean mountain stream. Her eyes a pale sky blue, reflecting pools of sadness like fresh rain. Her path led her to the star lit pool, the place that had taken her wandering soul so long to reach. At once she was surrounded by the start forms of so many cats. They stared at her with their lit up eyes. One, a blue-grey tom with bright blue eyes approached her.
"Clearpool, you've come to us at last." He said.
"I need to be here for my kits... my mate they need to know I still care for them." Clearpool mewed. "Please Skystar. I left without knowing my precious kits." Skystar nodded to her. Clearpool's watery pelt became alive with stars, her eyes becoming brightly lit.
"You fools." An unfriendly voice hissed, pixel's dark tattered pelt was caked with dried blood. The dark frost had taken its toll on her. Her eyes no longer green but a deep ruby red. "I've seen the future. You refuse to listen to me. You won't terminate the Over Lord spawn. what will you do?"
"We'll chase you away again." Skystar growled.
"You can't keep this up. The higher the peace in the forest builds. The harder the crash when it falls on you." Pixel growled, before her dark form melted back into the shadows.

Chapter 1

"Goldblaze I wanta play!" Brightkit wined. Her silver tabby pelt fluffed Up indignantly.
"I can't play right now." Goldblaze said.
"Why not?" Brightkit pouted.
"I have to go on patrol. Why don't you ask Rosypaw or Irispaw to play?" He Goldblaze suggested.
"They're training." Brighter replied, she pounced on the gold tabby's tail "besides you're more fun."
"Sorry little one." Goldblaze said "I have to go,"
Brightkit watched as Goldblaze walked away. She huffed and turned her split face back to the nursery. Alari was dozing outside the bracken den, her Snow White pelt freshly groomed. Brightkit would have woken her adoptive mother up but thought better of it. She had been through too many of Breezestripe's lectures to go that far. Being the oldest kit in the clan meant she was doomed to have no suitable playmates. Ivypool's three kits were too young, and her adoptive sisters were too busy for her now. The elders worn't very keen on her either. even Lightwhisker seemed to be scared of her, and if Goldblaze was to be believed that was very hard to do. Brightkit couldn't blame all her clan mates for being afraid of her. She didn't exactly look like them. Her face was split down the middle; she had two muzzles and three eyes. When she spoke both her mouths opened and closed, she had two voices. She was practically blind in her middle eye, which was clouded with a film of silver.
Brightkit sighed she would wait for Goldblaze to come back, or for Alari to wake up; which ever came first. The two of them were the only ones who didn't openly avoid her; and Breezestripe of course, but he wasn't around a lot.
"I guess I'll go play by myself." Brightkit muttered to herself. She really hated her split voice and the way it sounded; like listening to a constant echo.
"Hey kit what's up?" She turned and saw breezestripe, the black Tom was smiling down at her.
"Breezestripe!" Brightkit cheered, prancing around the warrior's

paws. He was bleeding from a cut on his left shoulder. "What happened?"
"Just had a little scrap with a wind clan flea bag." Breezestripe said, "nothing I can't handle. But I could use someone to come with me to get it checked out."
"Okay!" Brightkit mewed, she finally had something to do.
"Back again Breezestripe?" Jayfeatger asked.
"Afraid So." Breezestripe smirked, "hope you don't mind I brought the kit."
"As long as she doesn't mess with my herbs." Jayfeatger grumbled.
Brightkit scampered to the pool next to the den and batted at the water with one paw. She watched the water ripple and she giggled.
"Brightkit!" Alari called from outside. She came inside the den and sighed. "Come on little one, it's time for your nap."
"But I'm not tired." Brightkit pouted. She watched as Breezestripe and Alari touched noses.
"Did jayfeatger tell you the good news?" Alari asked her mate.
"I thought it would be best for you to tell him." Jayfeatger shrugged.
"What news?" Breezestripe asked. Alari purred.
"I'm expecting kits!" She mewed, Breezestripe looked like his brain had stopped working.
"W-what? I'm going to a father?" He stuttered.
"So soon?" Leafpool asked, "your first kitting didn't exactly go too well."
"I was alone then, this time it'll be different." Alari assured her.
"You're having more kits?" Brightkit asked.
"Yes little one," alari purred, nuzzling brightkit fondly. "Now come on, it's time for your nap," she picked brightkit up by her scruff and carried her out of the den.
"Come on Alari." Brightkit pouted as the white queen settled into a nest with her. "I wanta go play."
"Your a growing kit, you need your rest." Alari chided.
"But I don't wanta sleep. My dreams are weird." Brightkit protested.
"All dreams are weird." Alari purred.
"But Alari, my dreams are Weird!" Brightkit drew out the last word in a long mew of discomfort.
"Sweetie. Something weird might just be something familiar viewed from a different angle." Alari said, wrapping her tail around Brightkit and drawing her close. "And that's not scary, right?"
Brightkit looked up at her and gave a small nod. Alari purred, she

started humming and then she started to sing a lullaby. "Let's go in the garden. You'll find something waiting. Right there where you left it lying upside down. When you finally find it. You'll see see how it's faded. The underside is lighter when you turn it around. Everything stays right where you left it. Everything stays, but it still changes. Ever so slightly, daily and nightly. In little ways, when everything stays."
Brightkit yawned feeling sleepy all of a sudden. She curled up closer to alari's soft white fur and drifted off.

Chapter 2

"Mama!" Amberkit whined, "I wanta go out and play!"
"Me too!" Ashkit complained.
"Firestorm! I need a break. Come take care of your kits." Lioneye ordered. Firestorm purred, and padded over to his mate.
"You two runts want to practice your fire?" He asked his kits.
"Yes!" Amberkit And Ashkit cheered. Both kits had their father's spiked fur and to the detriment of their clan mates they had also inherited the element of fire. So far the only casualties had been a clump of ferns and a small bush. though having two kits that could start fires with just their paws put a lot of stress on the still weak shadow clan. With tigerheart missing rowanstar had refused to name a new deputy.
"You'd make a good deputy." Ashkit told firestorm as they returned to the camp with their fur dusted with soot.
"Yeah." Amberkit agreed, the pale ginger she cat bouncing on her paws. When they returned to the camp however the prospect of being named deputy was driven from firestorm's head. Sleekwhiscker, one of the young warriors that had fled with darktail's kin was standing in the camp.
"Kits. Go to your mother." Firestorm told amberkit and ashkit who seemed to know Now wasn't the time to argue.
"What do you want sleekwhisker?" Rowanstar asked with a growl. Firestorm stood in the group of cats that were standing with the shadow clan leader.
"I want what is mine." Sleekwhisker hissed. "I know tigerheart is gone. I am the only cat here worthy to take his place."
"Tigerheart will return!" Puddleshine shouted from his den. "Star clan has shone me."
"He has abandoned shadow clan." Sleekwhisker shot back. "You must name a new deputy. It is part of the warrior code."
"A code you denounced when you joined darktail and chose your own warrior name." Rowanstar hissed. "You are not welcome here Sleekwhisker."
Firestorm was surprised that dawnpelt didn't step up to defend her daughter. The pale She cat simply glared at the rouge.

Sleekwhisker's neck fur bristled but she didn't say anything else dipping her head and pushing through the thorn tunnel and out of camp. Firestorm made his way over to Rowanstar as the others went back to their duties.
"She has a point." He said to his leader. "We need a deputy."
"That isn't for you to decide." Rowanstar hissed.
"Not permanently." Firestorm pressed. "Someone like Tawnypelt who can take over the duties until tigerheart returns." The clan leader merely snorted at these words.
"Fine. Be a coward." Firestorm hissed. "Shadow clan won't get stronger if you won't do what needs to be done."
"And you think you know what Is best for this clan?" Rowanstar growled. "You were not born a clan cat you don't understand!"
Firestorm bristled his green eyes just as bright as his fire. A heat grew at his paws and soon they were engulfed in bright orange flames. "I may not have clan blood." Firestorm growled, scuffing sand and dirt over his paws to choke the flames. "But I know what needs to be done to show strength in times like these." And with that paws still smoking he walked off to the nursery.
"Are you alright love?" Lioneye asked Firestorm as he sat down next to her nest.
"Fine just..." Firestorm sighed. "Frustrated." He let her lick his ears enjoying the love and comfort he had with her.
"He'll come to his senses soon." Lioneye soothed. "You'd make a fine deputy and an even finer leader."
"Another firestar?" Firestorm asked with a chuckles. "wouldn't that be confusing?"
This made Lioneye laugh. "Maybe. But you'd be just as good if not better than him."
"Doubt it." Firestorm laid down now. "Goldblaze and Stonepool were always more like leaders."
Lioneye licked his shoulder. "Don't sell yourself short love. You're strong and brave." She looked at their kits curled up and sleeping. "And you're teaching them. Any leader would be lucky to have you as deputy." And with that happy thought firestorm said goodnight to his mate and left for the warriors den. His dreams were filled with the forest set a blaze and the cries of injured cats. A young silver and ginger tabby crying as her fur was burned away in patches. "Falconpaw?" Firestorm recognized the cat but when he started running to try and help her he found his path blocked by

falling trees and though his form was shadowed firestorm knew that silver and white pelt. "Zanefrost?!"
"I trusted you!" The silver Tom yowled and leapt at firestorm his claws unsheathed.

Chapter 3

Life in sky clan was good. The camp was peaceful all cats doing their jobs and what they could to help one another. Zanefrost's and Bellaleaf's kits had become apprentices and so had pineheart's three kits.
"Bet your glad to be out of the nursery." Zanefrost said giving his mate a lick on her shoulder as they shared tongues in the dappled shade of a fern.
"I am glad." Bellaleaf purred, nuzzling Zanefrost's neck softly. "I'm proud of our kits. Did you hear that Ninjapaw caught a crow yesterday?" She asked.
"I did." Zanefrost felt his chest swell with pride. "He got your jumping ability that's for sure."
"They are true sky clan cats." Bellaleaf mewed, and Zanefrost licked a patch of ruffled fur in her ginger tabby pelt.
"Zanefrost." It was hawkwing who spoke. "I need you for the evening patrol. Can you go meet Blossomheart, Sandynose, and Rabbitleap at the torn tunnel?"
"Sure." Zanefrost meowed giving Bellaleaf a goodbye lick on her cheek. He padded off the to meet the patrol at the tunnel.
"Glad you could join us." Sandynose said rather coolly. "Let's head out." The pale tabby Tom led the way out of camp. Zanefrost took up the rear as to not risk aggravating the older warrior. When they reached the shadow clan border a very familiar dark ginger shape came bounding up to Zanefrost.
"Zanefrost! Thank star clan I've been waiting here all day." It was firestorm and he looked quite unnerved. "We need to talk now."
"Can this wait?" Zanefrost asked, confused. "I'm on a patrol right now." He added. Ignoring a disapproving snort from Sandynose.
"No it can't!"Firestorm was falling into hysterics now. "This is really important!"
"Alright, alright. Calm down." Zanefrost said giving his friend a withering look. He turned to his clan mates and said. "Go on without me, I'll catch up."
Sandynose grunted something very rude but he and the others left. Once their paw steps had faded he turned back to firestorm.

"Now tell me what's going on." Zanefrost prompted his voice now concerned as firestorm looked as though he were about to explode.
"I've been having dreams." Firestorm started. "Really bad dreams. Like the forest being on fire... and you..." He shuddered.
"And I What?" Zanefrost asked even more concerned. "Firestorm I can't help you if you don't tell me."
"You keep saying that I betrayed you." Firestorm shot out pulling his ears back. "That I... I don't know but in the dream I see falconpaw and she's hurt really badly..."
Zanefrost felt his heart skip at the mention of his daughter.
"How long have you been having these dreams?" Zanefrost asked.
"A few days." Firestorm meowed in defeat. "They keep getting longer and worse."
"Talk to puddleshine." Zanefrost said at last. "They must be dreams from star clan. He'll be able to help you more than I can."
"Okay..." firestorm looked disgruntled. "Yeah I'll do that." He turned to walk away. "It was good to see you..."
"You too." Zanefrost said with a warm smile. "And don't worry too much about those dreams they may not mean what you think."
Firestorm nodded and vanished into the undergrowth with a swish of his dark ginger tail.
Zanefrost turned back to return to the patrol But was stopped by a massive black form that slammed into him. Claws dug into his pelt, and the breath had been knocked out of him.
"Hello brother." A high cold voice said. A massive black and white Tom stood over Zanefrost. Cryptor his red eyes glinting with savage pleasure.
"Cryptor!" Zanefrost yowled bucking his hind legs against his brother's soft underbelly. Thus started a fight of pure savagery that took both toms tumbling to the lake edge. On their way down they had crashed into trees and a bramble thickets. This meant that the branches and thorns did just as much if not more damage than the tom's claws.
Finally Zanefrost managed to pin cryptor on the pebble strewn lake shore. Both of them were panting and bleeding from many cut.
"What are you doing here?" Zanefrost growled, his paw on the black Tom's neck.
"Wouldn't you like to know?" Cryptor spat, blood leaking from his mouth.
"Get out of here." Zanefrost spat, letting cryptor get shakily to his

paws. "If I ever see you here again, I'll rip your pelt off."
"Such promises." Cryptor hissed, limping away towards the horse place. Zanefrost panted And limped as he returned to the camp.
"What happened?" Blossomheart asked as he walked back into the camp on the heals of the evening patrol.
"You look like you've been dragged through the thorn tunnel backwards." Sandynose said.
"Rouge tom." Zanefrost said. "I met him on my way to meet up with you." He explained. "It was a rough fight but I don't think we'll be seeing him again."
"Go to frecklewish and fidgetpaw." Hawkwing said. Zanefrost nodded and went to the medicine cat's den.

Chapter 4

"Come on stonepool!" Owlnose called from the camp entrance.
"Alright I'm coming." Stonepool called back, giving softcloud one last loving lick. She was now expecting his kits and starting to show it too. Her soft white fur like freshly fallen snow was the most comforting feeling in the world to stonepool.
"Be safe." Soft cloud purred licking Stonepool's ear gently. He nodded and padded off to meet owl nose. The patrol was quiet until they reached the bourse place border where they saw two toms playfully chasing each other.
"Can't catch me Taka!" The slender brown Tom called over his shoulder. Stonepool thought he was speaking the truth as the other Tom was missing most of his right foreleg.
"Should we do something?" Owlnose asked watching the two toms as the one called Taka playfully pounced on the other.
"I got you Curtis!" He meowed in victory. His thick white pelt slightly ruffled from the tussle to get the other Tom on the ground. The Tom called Curtis rolled his bright blue eyes and playfully shoved Taka off.
"Don't let it go your head." He teased flicking his tail over the other tom's ears.
"Let's leave them be." Stonepool said at last. "They aren't doing any harm just playing. If they cross the border then we can worry but they're not so we'll leave them alone."
Owlnose nodded and they continued on their way.
"It's been really quiet these past few moons." Owlnose said as they made it back to the river.
"I'm glad of it." Stonepool mewed stretching out onto a warm rock. He enjoyed the feeling of the warmth on his fur and let out a contented purr.
"You're such a softy." Owlnose teased rolling his eyes.
"Don't ever repeat that if you want to keep your ears." Stonepool mewed in a playful tone. Owlnose purred.
"My lips are sealed." He mewed. The two toms stayed on the warm rocks for a while watching the fish swim under the rippling water. Stonepool lazily hooked a trout from the river with a paw planning

to give it to Softcloud as they were her favorite.
"Help!" A voice wailed. Both river clan tops looked around. Further down the river was the brown tom from the horse place, Curtis.
"Taka!" He cried splashing at the water with his paw as a white head bobbed just at the surface. Stonepool sprang to his paws and raced over owlnose at his heals.
"What's going on?" He asked the cat.
"Taka fell in!" Curtis cries looking terrified. Stone pool knew cat with only three legs would not be able to swim.
"Stay here." He ordered and jumped into the swirling current. He managed to grab Taka's scruff just as the white tom's head vanished under the surface of the water. With powerful scrolled of his paws Stonepool carried the half drowned Tom back to the shore where he laid him on the rocks.
"Taka!" Curtis crouched at his friend's side as Taka coughed up a mouthful of water.
"I-I'm Alright." He spluttered.
"The two Of you should be more careful." Owlnose said.
"Yes." Stonepool agreed. "You shouldn't even be here this is river clan territory.
Both tom's stared them.
"It was my idea to come here." Taka said. "I'm sorry if we disturbed you... but thank you for saving me..."
"Your welcome." Stonepool said. "Now you should go back to your home. It's not safe here for you."
"Come on Let's go." Curtis said helping Taka to his paws. "Thanks again." Curtis added as they left. Stonepool waited until the two toms were gone before he turned to Owlnose and said.
"Kittypets." He rolled his eyes. "We can't fault them for playing but they at least know not to come here anymore"
"Yeah." Owlnose muttered. "Let's head back to camp before something else happens."

Chapter 5

"Yeah get back here you mangy rogue!" Breezepelt growled, chasing after a brown tom holding a rabbit in his jaws. Lightingheart was hard on breezepelts paws.
"Come on breezepelt just leave it." Lightningheart panted.
"He's a prey thief!" Breezepelt hissed, "He needs to pay!"
A white blur slammed into Breezepelt knocking him of his paws.
"Don't you dare touch him!" The large white tom hissed in the dark warrior's face.
"Now hold on." Lightningheart said trying to stay calm. "Let's stop and take a breath before someone does something they'll regret."
"He's right Taka lets just go." The brown tom said.
The white tom called Taka shot
Breezepelt one more dirty look before joining his friend.
"You let them get away!" Breezepelt growled rounding on Lightningheart.
"We weren't going to catch them." Lightningheart hissed back. "And they were half starved. You're just mad that a cat with only three legs beat you in a fight."
"I'll rip your pelt off!" Breezepelt roared.
"That's enough Breezepelt!" It was crowfeather. "Leave it! Now!" For a moment both toms glared at each other before Lightningheart slunk away from He fight and back to the camp.
"Papa!" Zapkit mewed racing up to Lightningheart with wispkit at his heals.
"Hello kits." Lightningheart mewed nuzzling both of the tiny kits.
"How was your patrol?" Waterwing asked smiling at her mate.
"Just chased a couple of kittypets off the moor land." Lightningheart said giving his mate a lick on her ears.
"Did you kick their butts?" Wispkit squeaked her tiny tail lashing excitedly.
"Not really but they ran off when they saw my claws." Lightningheart mewed flicking his daughter's ears with his tail.
"Wow!" Wispkit mewed. She then pounced on her brother. "I've got you kittypet! Do not resist!"
"No fair!" Zapkit whines pushing his sister off and running. Wispkit

chased him mewing.
"Get out of wind clan territory!" Both kits squealed with delight as they wrestled and chased each other. Watching them Lightningheart wished Raykit was still with them. Would she be having fun with her siblings or was she happier in shadow clan with firestorm?
"Are you thinking about raykit?" Waterwing asked him.
"Of course I am." Lightningheart said digging his claws into the grass. "How can I not? We gave up one of our kits. And for what?"
Waterwing looked away. "It's too late to get her back we lied to the clan."
"We're lying to everyone." Lightingheart presses. "Not just our clan but every clan." He sighed and turned away.

It was sunset before Lightningheart could think straight again. The clan was settling down for the night most already snug in their nests.
"Settle down kits." Waterwing said trying to coax Zapkit and wispkit into their nest.
"I wanta hear a story." Wispkit mewed, unable to stifle a large yawn.
"It's late. I'll tell you a story in the morning." Waterwing promised drawing the kits closer with her tail. Both kits curled up and fell asleep quickly.
"Are they asleep?" Lightningheart asked walking into the nursery.
"Yes hush. Don't wake them up." Waterwing scolded.
"Sorry but we need to talk." Lightningheart said.
"If it's about raykit-"
"Yes it's about raykit." Lightningheart cut her off. "We lied. We split up our family."
"Like star clan didn't already do that." Waterwing snapped. "They put us all in different clans. Us, our team... our family..."
Lightningheart touched his nose to waterwing's ear.
"I'm sorry." He said. "I won't bring it up again. But the truth will come out sooner or later."
"I know." Waterwing sighed.
Lightningheart walked away to the warriors den and settled down in his own nest. Laying there he couldn't help think about the kittypets from that morning. They were free they didn't have to follow some stupid warrior code that kept them from being with the ones they loved. They didn't even know about star clan.

These thoughts were nothing compared to the nightmare lightingheart had that night.
The forest was on fire, ash coated the ground and the sound of a battle could be heard I. The distance and Lightningheart was running. He knew this place it was the border between shadow clan and sky clan. Lightningheart saw the fight the ash mixed with the blood spilled turning the ground black. He saw two toms fighting with everything they had; one silver one dark ginger.
"Firestorm! Zanefrost!" Lightningheart cried, as he watched his two friends rip into each other. If they kept fighting like this one of them was going to die.

Lightningheart sat bolt up right in his nest panting. Had that been a vision from star clan? Could his friends really be driven to try and kill each other? He only knew one thing, that battle had been started by a fire and the pained wail of a young shecat.

Chapter six

Goldblaze watched as brightkit chased a leaf just outside the nursery. The clan had grown used to having the two faced kit around by now but the golden warrior still got a chill of fear every time the kit came near him. He couldn't help but fear that brightkit would take after her father the over lord who had been the physical embodiment of darkness and evil. But the kit seemed almost harmless now playing and rolling around on the sandy floor of the stone hollow.
"She'll make a fine warrior." A voice said. Goldblaze nearly got a crick in his neck turning so fast to see bramblestar.
"Y-Yeah... I guess so." The golden tabby warrior said still coming down from the shock of his leader's sudden appearance.
"Are you Alright?" Bramblestar asked him.
"Yeah I'm fine." Goldblaze said quickly, shifting his paws nervously.
"I worry for her." He admitted. "She's different and not just because she has that split face."
Bramblestar nodded. "You speak of her father."
"Of course." Goldblaze was shocked about how casual the clan leader was being about this. "The over lord was the physical embodiment of evil and darkness. He was a demon."
"And you think brightkit will follow in her father's pawsteps?" Bramblestar questioned. "She doesn't know him he's dead."
"He's been dead before." Goldblaze muttered.
"Tigerstar was like that." Bramblestar said out of nowhere. "He's remembered as one of the most evil cats to ever live in the clans."
"That's different." Goldblaze said at once.
"Is it?" Bramblestar asked before going on. "Look at yourself, look at who you had for a father. And then look at who you are now. A fine warrior with a good heart."
Goldblaze looked away seeing that Alari was now grooming the sand from Brightkit's pelt as the kit tried to squirm away.
"I want to help her." Goldblaze said at last. "It's my fault she was even born. She should be my responsibility."
"Are you volunteering to be her mentor when she reaches six moons old?" Bramblestar asked.

"Yes. Anything to keep her on the right path." The gold tabby's pelt was beginning to puff out with worry.
"You still fear she may turn dark?" Bramblestar asked then he sighed. "I'd Consider you a fool if you didn't. My half brother turned out to be like our father there is always that possibility."
The conversation couldn't go any farther after that as Jayfeather joined them.
"Bramblestar." He said quickly and Goldblaze could smell the blind cat's fear sent. "We need to talk."
"Then we'll go to My den." Bramblestar Meowed But Jayfeather cut him off.
"No Goldblaze and lightwhisker need to hear this too." The medicine cat's voice was sharp as always but Goldblaze could tell he was worried about something.
"I'll go get him." Goldblaze said quickly, Bramblestar said to meet in the leader's den. Goldblaze found lightwhisker in the elder's den telling stories to Ivypool's kits.
"Sorry kits but I need to borrow lightwhisker for a moment." Goldblaze said and the three kits moaned in disappointment.
"What's going on?" Lightwhisker asked.
"Jayfeather wants to talk to us in bramblestar's den." Goldblaze murmured to his old sensi and led the old tom to the leader's den where Jayfeather and Bramblestar were waiting.
"So what's all this about?" Goldblaze asked the blind medicine cat.
"Stay clan has shone me something to do with you and the cats that came with you." Jayfeather said. "Half the forest on fire, lightning and storm clouds, the lake flooding, ground tearing open, and Ice storms. So much destruction and blood shed."
"You're sure this has to do with them?" Lightwhisker asked.
"I saw firestorm and Zanefrost. Both fighting like they wish nothing more than to kill each other-"
"Zanefrost wouldn't do that." Goldblaze interrupted. "Neither of them would want to hurt each other."
"I'm only telling you what star clan has shown me." Jayfeather snapped. "If this is true those two are going to fight, and the rest of you are going to choose a side. Who are you more loyal too?"
"Both of them." Lightwhisker said. "They were my students and I could never think that they could turn to hate each other."
"We need to be careful at any case." Bramblestar said, and that was that. Now that they were warned of what star clan had shown

Jayfeather Goldblaze and lightwhisker returned to what they had been doing before.

When goldblaze settles down in the warrior's den that night he was dropped into a horrible nightmare. There was a battle going on, the forest set a blaze the ground almost crumbling under goldblaze's paws. There was a fight going on. It was firestorm and Zanefrost and right now they were both prowling in a circle. Blood poured from the deep wounds on both Tom's and firestorm was limping badly.
"You hurt her!" Zanefrost yowled with an anger Goldblaze had never thought he was capable of having. "You used your fire on her and so many others! You're no brother of mine!"
"You're so weak!" Firestorm shot back. "You've never wanted more power Well I have and now I've got it,"
"You're insane!" Zanefrost looked as though he wanted to rip out firestorm's throat. "Look around and see what you've done! You've destroyed everything!"
Goldblaze couldn't stand it anymore he tried to break up the fight by jumping between both toms. The ground crumbled and gave way as he landed and Goldblaze fell into an infinite darkness.
Goldblaze cried out in fear as he woke up his nest a mess. He was panting hard terror gripping him. He had seen that look in firestorm's eyes before when he had held Chen's staff of elements. Goldblaze has to stop this somehow, he had to stop that fight. If what he had heard was true a lot was going to lead up to it. He just had to wait.

Chapter 7

"It's those kittypets again!" Spikefur growled. "That big white one was playing with a frog wasn't even hunting just playing like some over grown kit!" The older warrior was growling and slashing his tail.
"And you can't fight a kittypet?" Firestorm asked rolling his eyes. "I thought the white one only had three legs?"
"He fights almost like a warrior and he's almost twice my size." Spikefur shot back snarling.
"I'll go take care of it than." Firestorm muttered walking past his clanmate and out of camp. "Can't even fight a kittypet? Spikefur you mousebrain."
It wasn't hard to find one of the kittypets. It was the smaller brown one with those bright blue eyes. He was sniffing around the base of a pine tree and talking to himself.
"Enjoying the sights?" Firestorm asked coming out of hiding. The kittypet jumped in surprise and stared at him.
"Who are you?" He asked.
"My name is firestorm. I have been sent to chase you and your friend out of our territory. Go on back to your twolegs before I have to hurt you."
"I'm not doing anything to hurt you." The kittypet protested. "Taka hasn't either. And we don't have twolegs we're on our own."
"You still can't be here." Firestorm said curtly. "The others won't be as understanding as I am. They'll hurt you and your friend and chase you out."
The kittypet or loner looked unsure, but nodded. "I'll tell Taka. We'll keep to the twoleg barn from now on."
"Alright." Firestorm nodded.
"I'm Curtis by the way." The loner said before walking off. "Sorry if that was your friend Taka fought. He looks tough but he's a real softy once you get to know him."
"I'll keep that in mind." Firestorm muttered, "Now go and get your friend."
Curtis nodded and disappeared into the undergrowth. Firestorm waited until the other Tom's pawsteps could no longer be heard.

Firestorm left the foot of the pine tree secure in the thought he had kept the clan from hurting those two cats and kept the territory clear of future intruders.
That feeling came crashing down when he reached the camp. The first thing that hit him was the blood sent of his clan mates and their cries of battle and pain. Firestorm burst through the camp entrance and onto one of the attacking cats who he recognized as one of the members of Darktail's kin that had escaped the last battle. He fought with tooth and claw trying not to let his fire out but with a burst of intense heat the shecat fell to the ground crying in pain. Most of her fur had gone up in flames leaving her burning skin exposed. The stink of burning flesh and fur filled the clearing and the battle stopped.
"Retreat!" A voice shouted, and firestorm saw Sleekwhisker leading the attacking cat's out of camp. He was still looking at the Now dead shecat at his paws. The pain had been too much for her and her heart had stopped from the shock.
"What..." firestorm couldn't bring himself to speak. His own heart felt like it was going to explode in his chest. Blood roared in his ears and his pelt stood on end.
"Rowanstar is dead!" Tawnypelt cried And that snapped firestorm back to his senses. He charged for the thorn tunnel if he hurried he could catch Sleekwhisker. His paws are up the ground as he ran. He caught up to the still fleeing cats and jumped onto sleekwhisker's back sending both of them to the ground. Firestorm was the first to recover getting to his paws and pinning the shecat to the ground.
"You killed him!" Firestorm spat in her face. "You killed Rowanstar!" He lifted a paw and with all the force he could muster slashed through Sleekwhisker's throat. The rouges yowled in outrage and tried to attack firestorm but they were caught in a blaze of orange flame. Their cries echoed in the trees and could have reached even star clan. The cries died away and soon all that was left of the rouges were piles of ash and a few scattered bones. Firestorm panted he hadn't used that much power in a long time and his legs felt weak. He tried to take a few steps but his paws fell out from under him and the world went dark.

Chapter 8

The full moon shone brightly overt the lake casting silver light onto everything in the forest. Zanefrost followed his chosen clan mates and kept an eye on his kits. It was there first gathering as apprentices and they were almost vibrating with excitement. Ninjapaw was hopping every other step he took and Birchpaw was staring up at the moon as if seeing it clearly for the first time. Falconpaw was trying to walk at the front of the group so she would be the first to see the lake when they got there.
"Wow..." Zanefrost heard birchpaw and ninjapaw gasp in unison. They had reached the lake shore and they were staring wide eyed at the shimmering surface being bathed in silver moonlight.
"It's beautiful..." falconpaw said the sight appeared to have stopped her in her tracks.
"Come on you three." Zanefrost said kindly nudging the apprentices along. "You don't want to be late do you?"
"No!" All three of them squeaked and they rushed off the catch up with the rest of the clan.
"Careful on the tree bridge you'll slip!" Zanefrost called after his kits.
"Kit problems?" It was Lightningheart, and he was smiling.
"Yeah..." Zanefrost sighed but was smiling.
"Here I'll walk with you." Lightningheart said walking with Zanefrost to the tree bridge and across it.
"How are your kits?" Zanefrost asked as they found a place to sit close to the edge of the clearing.
"They're Alright. A paw full to handle but they're good." Lightningheart said, and there was an almost guilty glint in his blue eyes; but it vanished as soon as it appeared.
"That's good to hear." Zanefrost mewed.
"Hey guys." Stonepool came up to them with a wide smile. "What's up?"
"Have you seen firestorm or Goldblaze?" Lightingheart asked, Stonepool shook his head.
"I don't even see Rowanstar." Zanefrost said looking up at the leader's tree.

"But there are shadow clan cat's here." Lightningheart pointed out. "And they don't look soo good."
He was right. The few present shadow clan cat's all had fresh wounds, some of them were even still bleeding, their fur matted with dried blood.
"Should they even be here if they're hurt like that?" Zanefrost asked under his breath, as he and the others watched as Tawnypelt ascended the great oak tree to sit with the other leaders. Even from here Zanefrost could tell the leader's all looked troubled.
"Wonder what's got them so spooked?" Lightingheart said.
"It must be something that happened in shadow clan." Zanefrost said, then added. "Now hush they're about to start."
The other leaders didn't have much to say. Harestar said something about kittypets on the moorland but Zanefrost was waiting to hear what Tawnypelt had to say. When she finally started to speak the silence in the clearing was so absolute it was almost tangible.
"Rownstar is dead." Tawnypelt said. "Our clan was attacked by what was left of darktail's kin. They were led by a former warrior Sleekwhisker and the battle cost Rowanstar all of his remaining lives." As she spoke a shiver seemed to pass through the gathered cats. None of them had quite gotten over darktail and the death and pain he had left in his wake.
"But the rogues are no longer a threat to the forest." Tawnypelt went on. "Our warrior firestorm went after them shortly after we chased them out of our camp. When a patrol was sent to find him we found that there was nothing left of the rogues but ashes and a few scattered bones.
Hushed whispered spread like wild fire. The air became thick with fear sent of so many cats it was almost suffocating. Zanefrost could feel his paws start shaking. He looked at Stonepool and lightingheart and they both had looks of horror on their faces. Firestorm, the cat they had trained and known for years had killed all of those cats. Former clan mates and rogues alike they were all ash on the forest floor.
This thought chased itself around Zanefrost's head as he and his clan returned to camp. How could firestorm do that? How could he kill so many? Did he regret it? Surely he must feel something.

These thoughts were only made worse by a nightmare. The forest was blazing around him and Zanefrost could feel the thick smoke

start to choke him. Through the haze of the smoke and flames he saw the dark ginger shape of firestorm blood dripping from his muzzle and claws and a murderous glint in his green eyes. This was not the firestorm Zanefrost knew. This was a coldblooded killer that had once been his friend no his brother. But there was nothing of the kind overly confident cat in those eyes. No longer was he the heroic master of fire. He was a danger to the clans and he needed to be stopped.

Chapter 9

Waterwing was not at all happy when Lightningheart told her what firestorm had done. "How could be do something like that?" Her voice nearly broke as she spoke.
"I don't know. Maybe he lost control?" Lightningheart tried to Alfonso a reason for firestorm's behavior. "It's happened before."
"But he's never killed anyone." Waterwing protested. "We've got to talk to him."
"Hold on. We can't just go over there. Not with how fragile shadow clan is right now." Lightningheart said quickly. "They'll chase us our before we even get a chance to talk to him."
"Then what can we do?" Waterwing asked.
"We wait." Lightingheart gave his mate a soft lick on her ear. "I'm sure he'll be fine."
Waterwing only looked slightly comforted by her mate's words. "I'm scared for him. He doesn't like to hurt people but killing them..."
"I know I know..." Lightningheart mewed softly.
"Lightingheart." Crowfeather's voice called. "I need you for the sun high patrol."
"Alright I'm coming." Lightningheart called back. "Don't worry." He told waterwing. "Firestorm is a smart cat he'll get through this." He said softly before walking away to join his patrol. It seemed as though the two kittypet toms had moved on because even their sents were nowhere to be found.
"Let's hope they stay away." Heathertail hissed, Lightningheart merely rolled his eyes at the shecat's words.
"Are you saying we can't chase off a couple kittypets?" He asked snidely. Heathertail let out an irritated huff.
"I'm saying cats like that need to fear us so they stay away from out territory and don't steal our prey." She muttered. "Back in the old forest some clans even did raids on twoleg place so the kittypets would stay away."
"How do you know that? You weren't even born yet." Sedgewhisker meowed.
"I heard some elders talking about it." Heathertail said defensively.
Lightyningheart turned out the bickering of his two clan mates and

focused on marking the border. He would occasionally catch words of their conversation but not enough to warrant his attention. He missed how easy it had been to talk, debate, and joke with his fellow ninja. With wind clan there was this impassable border of formality. Lightingheart constantly felt like he was walking on egg shells around his clan mates; and not just because he was lying to them. He earned for the easy comradory that had come with being a part of the ninja team. They had all played off of and balanced out each other perfectly. Now he could hardly strike up the simplest conversation with any of his clan mates aside from waterwing. Lightningheart was annoyed by the unfairness of it all. Zanefrost had found and mate and a best friend in his clan; even if hawkwing was a little confrontational. Stonepool has trained an apprentice and was now spending every hunting patrol he could with Owlnose; Lightingheart couldn't help but think about what a ridiculous name that was. Goldblaze had Breezstripe and lightwhisker, And was clearly pining after sparkpelt even if he would admit it. And firestorm had his own mare it lioneye and three kits. No just to, Raykit was lightningheart's daughter even if she wasn't aware of it. At that though Lightningheart dug his claws into the grass. They should have kept her he should have talked waterwing out of that rabbit brained idea. It was too late they couldn't get their daughter back. And even did they could she most likely would hate them. What kind of parents were they to give away one of their kits? And now shadow clan was falling apart without its leader and deputy. What would happen is the whole of the clan split up and became rogues? Surely the warriors would need some place to go. No other clan would want that pine tree marshy waste land. The only prey in those trees were frogs that left a fowl taste in the mouths of most cats. Lightningheart felt his insides wriggle at the thought of having to eat frog.

The sun had sunk below the hills when the patrol made it back to camp. Lightningheart went to go check on waterwing and the kits. They were asleep in their nest the two small cats pressed into their mother's soft black fur. Lightningheart left and went to the warrior's den not wanting to disturb the sleeping cats. He picked his way around his fellow warriors some sleeping others laying awake trying to sleep. He settled himself in the back of the den where he had placed his nest. This place was away from where Breezepelt

slept so he could avoid his ever present amber glare. Lightningheart curled his tail over his nose and fell asleep soon after.
The dream he had that night was even worse than the last. Like always the forest was on fire. Burning tree limbs falling and nearly crushing the cats that were running to get away. There were thundering storm clouds over head and the lake was flooding. The ground was opening up into wide cracks under paw. It seemed as though the whole of every clan territory was coming apart at the seems. And at the center of it all was the fight between Zanefrost and firestorm. An argument turned to a tooth and claw battle that Lightningheart had seen play out in his dream before. It was clear he and the others would have to choose a side. Would they side with Zanefrost who firestorm had betrayed? Or with the cat who had clearly caused all this by attacking an innocent cat.

Chapter 10

Zanefrost wasn't telling any of his clan mates about his nightmares. Even thought they were getting worse and more detailed by the night he didn't want to bother frecklewhish with them. They weren't causing him anything other than worry. Worry that they would come true that he would come to have such anger toward one of his oldest friends.
"Zanefrost!" Blossomheart races over to him a bad gash outing her ear and the smell of smoke clinging to her pelt. "Shadow clan attacked a patrol! Firestorm is with them!"
"Show me." Zanefrost said feeling the urgency clear in his voice. The two warriors dashed through the forest their paws eating up the leaf strewn ground. When they reached the border time screeched to a halt.
"Otterpaw!" Falconpaw screamed, as firestorm loomed over her fellow apprentice. "Leave her alone!"
It happened in a flash of fire. Falconpaw launched herself at the desk ginger warrior and firestorm reacted the same way he always had; with his fire. Falconpaw screamed, a throat shredding cry that caused birds to take flight from near by trees. She writhed in the ground as patches of her torishell pelt and flesh burned. Firestorm just stood there dumbfounded. When everyone realized what has happened otterpaw was the first to cry over falconpaw's wailing.
"Falconpaw!" The brown tabby shecat bent over her friend who was now trembling in a state of paralyzed shock.
"Firestorm!" Zanefrost was surprised at the level of out rage as he roared the other Tom's name. He lunged at the shadow clan cat his claws ripping through firestorm's left ear. Blood splattered the grass as the two tumbled ears over tails. Zanefrost bit and clawed at every part of firestorm he could reach until the Tom escaped his claws and fled back across the border his clan mates following him. Swallowing his anger Zanefrost races back to the others, otterpaw was bent low over Falconpaw her green eyes full of fear.
"Please give me room." Zanefrost meowed softly his voice horse from his outraged cries. He placed a paw on the worst of falconpaw's still burning flesh, a thin layer of ice formed killing the

last of the flames. He could feel his daughter trembling and her rapid heartbeat and breathing.
"We need to get her the camp." Blossomheart said urgently, "frecklewish can help her."
Zanefrost nodded and picked Falconpaw up. Blossomheart helped otterpaw straighten up the young shecat was shaking almost as badly as Falconpaw was. When they reached camp they were greeted by the terrified wailing of the other warriors frecklewish and fidgetpaw took Falconpaw in and gave otterpaw a poppy seed for shock.
The worst was when bellaleaf got back from her hunting patrol over the next few days she and Zanefrost barely left her side over that time. Frecklewish told them that the fur in the burned areas would never grow back. The damage was awful, large patches of bare skin that Broke up the young shecat's pelt.
Otterpaw visited her friend often bringing her need moss and feathers for her nest, water and fresh kill.
"Firestorm did this to her," Zanefrost growled under his breath. "All because she was trying to protect her friend..." he dug his claws into the ground. Ice spiked into form at this paws sharp as his fangs. "You will answer for what you've done brother."

Chapter 11

[image]

A piercing yowl spit the air, tufts of white fur stained with blood covered the ground.
"Stop this!" Zanefrost growled, he had pulled firestorm off the white loner who was Now laying unmoving on the ground. "He's done nothing too you! You could have killed him!"
But he didn't used his fire, Thank Star clan for that.
Firestorm turned and snarled at the pale grey Tom. "What are you even doing here?!"
"I just want to talk." Zanefrost said. "You attacked and nearly killed my daughter with your fire." He was struggling to keep the contempt and anger from his voice.
"She attacked me!" Firestorm spat. "She should've known better!" There was vicious gleam in his eyes.
"Your saying it was her fault you burned her?!" Zanefrost unsheathed his claws.
"If you play with fire that's what happens." Firestorm growled looking ready to pounce. A massive white shape pinned firestorm to the ground.
"Go! Run! I'll hold him off!" The white loner ordered.
"When you can follow me!" Zanefrost told him before racing off. He had come to shadow clan to talk and try to understand firestorm.
He doesn't regret what he did. Even though we all agreed not to use our powers in battle with other cats. His paws ate up the ground as he leaped across the border back to sky clan. He heard heavy paw steps as the white Tom broke through the thick undergrowth. He had several bad cuts on his flank and a large tear in one ear.
"Your friend came to us." Zanefrost said. "He's waiting at camp for you."
"Thank you." Taka dipped his head.
"Frecklewish will take a look at your wounds as well." Zanefrost added.
"I've had worse." Taka murmured.
"I can see," Zanefrost meowed looking at what was left of the the other Tom's right foreleg.

They reached the camp in silence and were greeted at the entrance by Curtis.
"Are you Alright?" The brown Tom asked his friend.
"I'll live." Taka assured him.
"You dumb reckless cat." Curtis teased. "Come on Let's get those cuts taken care of." Curtis led Taka away with his tail to frecklewish's den.
"Those two would make good warriors." Hawkwing commented.
"Is leafstar thinking of inviting them to join us?" Zanefrost the deputy.
"She already spoke to Curtis about it." The grey Tom confirmed. "They're both good fighters and hunters."
"I'd be more concerned about shadow clan." Zanefrost said. "Has the infection in her wounds gotten any better?"
Hawkwing shook his head. During the last fight over the border leafstar had taken a terrible blow to her chest. She hadn't lost a life yet but the wound was horribly infected.
"Did you talk to firestorm?" Hawkwing asked.
"He doesn't regret what he did." Zanefrost clawed at the ground. "Even if it was a mistake he looked proud of it. And we all know sleekwhisker and her rogues didn't just run off. Firestorm turned them to ash and bone."
"Maybe the warrior code needs to change." Hawkwing said. "If I become leader I can make an announcement at a gathering. No cat with an elemental power is allowed to use their power in battle against other warriors."
"Thank you hawkwing." ZaneFrost meowed. "I'm not sure if firestorm would listen but it would keep all other cats safer."
"Hawkwing!" It was fidgetpaw, the young Tom came racing up to the clan deputy. "Come quick its leafstar."
Without a word hawkwing and Zanefrost followed the young medicine cat to the leader's den. Leafstar was laying in her nest of moss and feathers. The wound on her chest filling the den with the sick smell of rot.
"Hawkwing..." She said breathlessly.
"Yes leafstar. I'm here, what do you need?" Hawkwing bent down over the clan leader who looked small compared to him.
"Hawkwing... Star clan is calling me..." leafstar mewed softly, "I'm going to join them soon..."
"What? No... leafstar please no." Hawkwing Sounded desperate now.

"You're going to get better."
The dying shecat let out a weak purr. "This wound has already taken two of my lives, I'm on my last..." she had to stop to breath. "Hawkwing you will lead the clan well through many long seasons... star clan has shown me what you will do for all of the clans..." the light left leafstar's eyes and they slid closed. Hawkwing held back a grief stricken cry. Zanefrost felt the bottom drop out of his stomach. Had that one wound cost leafstar her final three lives? *Star clan why have you let this happen?*

Chapter 12

Goldblaze could feel the tension in the cats at the gathering. Sky clan and shadow clan cats were casting threatening looks at each other; queens, warriors and apprentices alike. There was also a change in the cats sitting in the branches of the great oak tree. Where tawnypelt had been filling in the spot of leader and muscular brown tabby Tom with clear amber eyes was sitting. In leafstar's place sat Hawkwing, who had put as much space between himself and the new shadow clan leader as he could. When Goldblaze looked at where the deputies sat at the roots of the oak he got a shock. Zanefrost and firestorm were Among them both of them visibly bristling. Firestorm's left ear was torn horribly and he had a new scar on his muzzle.
"Hey Goldblaze." Stonepool padded up to the the thunder clan warrior.
"Hey." Goldblazeblaze replied vaguely still staring at the group of deputies.
"Yeah I noticed too." Stonepool observed following his friend's gaze to the foot of the great oak. "Good for them... but do you have any clue who the new shadow clan leader is?"
"I think it's tigerheart." Goldblaze replied, "he was Rowanstar's deputy but he disappeared. Guess he's back."
"With firestorm as his deputy to boot." Stonepool mewed. "He sure looks proud of himself."
"Zanefrost doesn't look too happy about it though." Goldblaze pointed out. He watched as bramblestar took his place on the branches of the great oak. The cats in the clearing all went silent and Stonepool stiffened next to Goldblaze. The golden warrior could feel the river clan cat's muscles bunch under his tick pelt. Bramblestar, harestar, And mistystar didn't have much to report other than the prey running well for their clans.
When Hawkwing made his report Goldblaze got the answer for what happened to leafstar.
"Three days ago leafstar lost her final life. A wound she received in battle became infected and she joined star clan not long after." Hawkstar reported, "I gained my nine lives the next night and I

have named Zanefrost as my deputy."
A few cats murmured their approval, they knew Zanefrost as the cat who had rid the clans of two major threats. What other choice was there for sky clan's next deputy?
"I also have something else to say." Hawkstar continued. "One of our apprentices Falconpaw was gravely injures in a battle with shadow clan. And because of that I feel that a new rule must be added to the warrior code."
A few voices rise mostly older cats, sounding unconvinced.
"It was firestorm of shadow clan." Hawkstar spoke over the voices. "He used his fire on Falconpaw, a fellow clan cat and fellow follower of the code. Zanefrost told me that the other cats who bare the elements made a packed to never use their powers on other cats during battle," the new sky clan leader went on. "There for I believe for the safety of all cats that this agreement must be added to the code."
The other leaders all all exchanged looks of mute agreement.
"We agree." Bramblestar meowed, Goldblaze exchanged a look with Stonepool at this.
"Then in the eyes of star clan." Hawkstar spoke. "I Hawkstar leader of sky clan add a new amendment to your noble code. From this day forward any warrior who bares an elemental power shall never use that power against their fellow warriors in battle."
The gathered cats murmured some agreed others didn't. Goldblaze thought it was a good idea. With the high birth rates that the clans had the elements would be bared by far more cats after a few generations. Far more cats would bare elements than people in Ninjago had. This would be better and Stonepool seemed to agree as well. But firestorm looked furious.
"What good are our powers if we can't use them?!" The dark ginger warrior hissed. "You'd ask us not to be ourselves to hold in our powers!"
"Silence!" Hawkstar growled. "It was your actions that brought this on. If you had controlled yourself maybe this wouldn't have been necessary." The grey leader jumped down from the great oak with the grace all sky clan cats were known for. Zanefrost followed at his leader's side the rest of the clan joining them. The silver tom didn't even glance back at his old friends.
Goldblaze felt his blood go cold when he saw the rage blazing in firestorm's green eyes. *Oh star clan... this is how it starts. This is what*

will drive all of us to choose sides. Why are you doing this to us?

Chapter 13

[image]

Leaf bare had begun to settle over the clans, the trees lost the rest of their leaves and the ground became hard and cold under paw.
"Sandynose, rabbitleap, And plumwillow, I want you on the morning hunting patrol." Zanefrost instructed, "Blossomheart, Harveymoon, And cherrytail, can you check the shadowclan border."
The gathered cats nodded and headed for the tunnel of ferns.
"This suits you." Frecklewish told him. "Falconpaw is doing better now, I think she'll be ready to resume her training soon,"
"Thank you for helping her so much." Zanefrost mewed.
"Star clan be thanked that she can still move just as well."
"How is she feeling?" Zanefrost asked.
"A little self-aware do to the lack of fur in some places." The medicine cat mewed.
"I can hear you two!" Falconpaw called from the den. She shivered. "I wish I had more fur." She complained, padding over to the fresh kill pile. "Frecklewish can I go hunt and stretch my legs?" She asked the medicine cat.
"I suppose." Frecklewish mewed. "What do you think Zanefrost?"
"Of course you can go hunt." Zanefrost meowed. Falconpaw smiled and skipped over the the fern tunnel and vanishing with a flick of her tail.

At sun hight Zanefrost was making his way to a clearing between the border of sky clan and thunder clan. Goldblaze and breezestripe were already waiting.
"That was a gutsy move on hawkstar's part." The formerly cursed ghost commented. "But a smart one."
"I don't think firestorm sees it that way." Zanefrost muttered.
"I noticed." Goldblaze put in. "Do you think he's coming?"
"Not likely." Zanefrost said. "In my rage I may have torn his ear."
"Good job." Breezestripe smirked, But was silenced by a glare from Goldblaze.
"That's not the point." The Golden warrior muttered.

"Then What is the point?" Lightningheart asked.
"The point is that firestorm isn't happy about the new addition to the code." Waterwing mewed.
"Why would he be?" Stonepool asked, "it puts restrains on all of us. I'm not against it but it does make things more difficult."
"We have to learn to restrain ourselves." Goldblaze said. "It's safer for everyone this way."
"And we can still use our powers against foxes, and other wild animals." Lightingheart pointed out.
"We might have to head back now." Breezestripe meowed to Goldblaze. "I promised Alari I'd watch Brightkit tomorrow."
The others all nodded in mute agreement.
Zanefrost cast stonepool a somber look that the dark tabby returned before vanishing into a clump of ferns. Zanefrost padded his way back to the skyclan camp and saw that hawkstar was waiting for him.
"Well?" His leader asked.
"What can I say... firestorm didn't show up." Zanefrost told him sadly. "The others seem resigned to it for now but we still need time to adjust."
"And the kits?" Hawkstar pressed.
"We don't know if lightningheart's and waterwing's kits even have powers. They can skip generations." Zanefrost explained.
"And firestorm's?" Hawkstar seemed to know how touchy this subject would be.
"I assume they doth have it by the look in his eyes." Zanefrost muttered. "I've never seen such fierce pride."
"Well let's hope that the future elemental masters do follow this code... and are loyal to it just as they are to their clans."

Chapter 14

"Birchfrost! Ninjaclaw! Birchfrost! Ninjaclaw!" the cats of sky clan cheered the new warrior's names. Zanefrost felt his chest well pride, watching his two sons become full warriors. Falconpaw watched from the medicine cat's den with a similar glint in her eyes, though it was some what tarnished by jealousy.

"I'm so proud of you!" Bellaleaf purred to her son's licking their foreheads.

"mother..." Ninjaclaw groaned, "we aren't kits..."

"you'll always be my kits." Bellaleaf continued to purr.

"don't fight you mother you two." Zanefrost meowed.

"dad." Ninjaclaw complained as zanefrost touched his son's ear with his nose. "why are you like this?"

"Because you're my son." zanefrost purred, moving to touch Brichfrost's ear with his nose as well. "now are you both ready for you vigil?"

"Yes." both toms said at the same time, turning to each other smiling and walking to the camp entrance. Zanefrost watched them go and then turned to face his daughter.

"Are you okay?" he asked.

"of course." Falconpaw said a little too quickly. "Why wouldn't I be?"

"the look on your face." Bellaleaf said. "you look like a fox just stole your fresh kill."

"I'm. Fine." Falconpaw said stalking away before either of her parents could say anything else.

A few days later Zanefrost was walking on the Shadow clan border alone. Part of him was hoping to see firestorm, and try and talk to him or something... anything really. Another part wanted to rip his former team mate's pelt off for preventing his daughter to become a warrior along with her brothers. For injuring her so badly that it delayed her training for as long as it had.

"Hey!" a voice ripped zanefrost from his thoughts. Across the border stood a small fluff ball of a tom cat. "Get away from our border!"

putting two and two together Zanefrost thought that this must be Ashpaw; Firestorm's son.

"I'm not on your territory." Zanefrost said reasonably even though he was amused by the small tom.

"And stay over there." Ashpaw proclaimed puffing out his chest proudly. Zanefrost could see Firestorm in this small tom, his fierce green eyes, and spiked fur.

"You're firestor's son aren't you?" Zanefrost asked even though he already knew the answer.

"That's right." Ashpaw's eyes were so full of pride at this point that zanefrost thought they might burst. Zanefrost nodded to the apprentice before walking off without another word and with a slight smile on his face.

Ashpaw was so much like what his father used to be. proud and hot tempered but still friendly and loyal. Zanefrost could see it in the young cat's eyes. He only hoped Ashpaw wouldn't fall down the same path as his father was going down. Maybe there was still hope for Firestorm if he was still kind enough to instill that kind of love to his son. Zanefrost held onto that idea with all he had. he would not give up on his friend, a cat he still saw as a brother.

The world crumbled around Zanefrost in his dreams. fire, ice, and ash swirled in the air forcing him to breath it in. it stung his lungs

and throat as he ran from something. He didn't know what it was only that he needed to get away. He just knew that it was coming for him and that things were only going to get worse.

Chapter 15

"Hey Goldblaze." Stonepool whispered to the thunder clan tom. "Have you seen Zanefrost?"
"No." Goldblaze shook his head. "But his kits and that three legged cat is here."
"Oh that's Taka." Stonepool said recognizing the tom from when he had to pull him out of the river.
"Taka? You mean as in Takashi?" Goldblaze asked watching the white tom make his way through the crowd of cats. It was very clear he was missing a leg by the way he limped; though it didn't seem to hinder him that much.
"I don't know." Stonepool shrugged. "I only spoke to him and his friend once. I might be able to walk okay but he sure can't swim." He watched goldblaze's eyes as they followed Taka down to where he finally stopped under the shade of a clump of ferns. He was joined by a dark brown tabby tom with eyes that were such a pale shade of blue they were almost white. "That one is Curtis." Stonepool informed the golden tabby. Taka and Curtis were joined by a new cat. He was black with violet eyes and the fur on his chest was so thick and fluffy he resembled a black lion. "Not sure who he is."
"That's Taka's brother." Zanefrost's voice came from behind them.
"Jeez!" Stonepool squawked nearly leaving his pelt behind as he jumped. "Make yourself known next time!"
Zanefrost gave Stonepool one of his blank looks. "Didn't I just do that?" He asked in that sweetly yet socially ignorant way he often did. Stonepool smiled.
"Yeah..." he laughed awkwardly before asking. "So that cat?"
"He's Taka's brother." Zanefrost repeated. "He met up with them a few days ago. It's good he's here. We still haven't fully recovered from loosing so many of our warriors during the journey here."
"So they're warriors now?" Goldblaze asked and Zanefrost dipped his head in a small nod. "What about Taka's missing leg?"
"He's still a very skilled fighter." Zanefrost meowed. "He says it's been a long time since he lost it. He just knows how to cope without it now."

"What about the other two?" Stonepool asked. "Curtis is a good hunter. Great in trees and at jumping. He fits in well." Zanefrost told them. "Keith, Taka's brother is a very skilled fighter, he's so stealthy you'd think he was a shadow clan cat."
"I'm guessing he's not that friendly." Goldblaze joked, clearly forgetting that it would be lost on zanefrost.
"He's aggressive." Zanefrost conceded. "But he's caring and very protective of Taka. He threatened to rip Sandynose's pelt off after he beat Taka pretty hard in a trailing fight."
"Can you blame him though."Stonepool asked. "I mean his brother is missing a leg and he couldn't have been born with all those scars."
"They won't tell us what happened." Zanefrost said. "My best guess is Taka ran a fowl of a large dog or a badger." He walked passed them to sit under the great oak tree with the other clan deputies. "I'll see you later."

As the gathering progressed it was clear from Hawkstar's report that Taka, Curtis, And Keith had not taken clan names when they became warriors. This warranted a few whispers from cats from the other clans, but it wasn't in common for sky clan. When Stonepool heard that Birchfrost, and Ninjaclaw had been made warriors he watched the pride explode in Zanefrost's eyes. All the love he had for his sons was plain as day.
Stonepool didn't have to guess why Falconpaw wasn't a warrior yet. She'd missed a lot of her training and had some catching up to do. He felt sorry for the young shecat and the fact that she was so far behind her brothers. Stonepool couldn't help it. He had to look at firestorm. The dark ginger tom was sitting under the great oak with the other deputies, but as far away from Zanefrost as he could without seeming overly rude; for a shadow clan cat any way. Stonepool could tell that firestorm didn't care that Falconpaw wasn't here having her warrior name cheered by the other clans. That she hadn't been made a warrior at all because of what he had done to her. The realization made Stonepool feel sick.

When the gathering was over Stonepool was glad to meet up with his clan mates. He'd given hushed goodbyes to Goldblaze and Zanefrost but they hadn't been able to do anything more. Stonepool simply followed his fellow river clan cats as they crossed the tree bridge, walked across the lake shore, and swam through the river or

walked over the stepping stones into the camp. Stonepool made his way to the nursery where Softcloud was waiting up for him.
"How are they?" He asked in a hushed tone. The white shecat purred And uncurled her tail to reveal two tiny kits. They had just been born the previous morning and now we're curled close to the their mother's belly.
"Still sleeping." Softcloud mewed as Stonepool purred rubbing his forehead against hers. "Are you ready to name them now?" She asked and Stonepool nodded. Looking down at the two tiny shecats; to him they were the most perfect living things in the world.
"The black and white one." He said. "Her name is Commitkit."
"That's beautiful." Solfcloud cooed. "Her sister... lets call her sablekit." She lightly nuzzled the solid black kit.
"They're both perfect." Stonepool thought his chest might burst from how happy he was. This was truly what his life had to have been leading to. There was no way he could be this at peace other wise.

Chapter 16

"Firestorm!" Raypaw called after her mentor as they walked through the forest. Firestorm could have waited for her but he felt compelled to keep his distance. So what if she was his siater's kit? Why would waterwing want to dump her on him when she could have raised her in wind clan with her siblings. Firestorm has taken the dark ginger shecat because of the desperation in his sister's eyes on that cold night. But now that raypaw was an apprentice she'd become so obnoxiously chatty that they were unlikely to get any hunting done at all.
"Hush." Firestorm finally hissed at her causing raypaw to skid to a halt and to kick up dead leaves. "Keep you're mouth shut and your nose to the wind and we might actually catch something for once."
He watched as Raypaw seemed to deflate before his eyes. Her tail and ears drooped and she scuffed her paws on the ground.
"I'm sorry..." raypaw murmured, her eyes down cast. Firestorm sighed. He felt stupid and cruel; though he was sure a few cats already thought of him as such.
"Don't look like that." Firestorm told her. "You know to catch prey you need to be quiet. Understand?"
"Yes." Raypaw lifted her head by a small fraction. *Victory keep going.*
"Now tell me what you can smell." Firestorm told her. "Once we know that we can see what we can catch."
Raypaw finally met his gave again, nodded and started sniffing the air.
"I smell frog, skink, and a crow." She said.
"Good." Firestorm told her. "Let's try for the crow. Remember what I taught you about stalking birds. Bring it back to me when you're done."
Raypaw nodded and very quietly followed the sent. Firestorm waited before following her to watch her progress. He knew he should be more flexible with Raypaw. She had no elemental power as far as he could tell. Sure she had his dark ginger fur and her mother's shade of green eyes but other than that there was no way to tell that they were kin. *She'll never see ninjago... never know the world were this all began...* firestorm knew no matter how much time

he spent in Shadow clan, no matter how hard he fought to defend it this place would never truly be his home. The others had all found their peace with being stuck with the clans. They'd grown families... new lives. Sure firestorm had done that too. He loved his kits and lioneye. But was it enough? Could this place truly be his if it didn't feel right? How could he just forget about ninjago? The world that he'd fought so hard to protect time and time again. He would never see it again...

Firestorm watched as Raypaw jumped and grabbed the crow with both fore paws. It was dead as soon as she made the killing bite; clean and quick. He tried to push away the thoughts he'd been lost in. He slunk back to the meeting place trying to think of something about Raypaw's hunt that he could criticize; but it was pointless. The catch had been flawless. *At least when we were training Goldblaze there was mistakes to point out.*

When Raypaw returned firestorm could practically feel the waves of pride coming from her.

"Good job." Firestorm said. "But next time hold your tail still. You'll be able to get closer that way." Better take her down a peg, or her head might be too big to fit through the thorn tunnel.

"Okay." Raypaw said her voice was slightly muffled by the feathers.

"Let's go back." Firestorm said.

"Already?" Raypaw asked.

"Yes." Firestorm said. "You can give that crow to Ratscar, and ask if he has any ticks for you to take care of."

"Okay..." Raypaw looked slightly dejected. *Okay maybe I took her down one too many pegs.*

"And then." Firestorm went on, trying to salvage the shecat's good mood. "You can ask lioneye if you can play with the kits. Maybe even teach them the hunter's crouch."

That did it. Raypaw perked right up though was still slightly humbled by the earlier criticism.

When they arrived back at camp firestorm stopped and watch Raypaw bring the crow to Ratscar. The old tom seemed very pleased by it. Raypaw left him after a moment and padded to puddleshine's den most likely to get a bit of mouse bile.

After that firestorm turned away to find Tigerstar. The shadow clan leader was waiting for him under the large pine tree. He dipped his head before speaking.

"The sun high patrol hasn't returned yet. Should I send a cat to

check on them?" Firestorm asked.
"No." Tigerstar shook his head. "They aren't that late. There's no need to be so nervous. You're doing great."
"Sorry..." firestorm could feel his inside wriggle with embarrassment. He'd been deputy for three moons now. What was wrong with him?
"Don't be." Tigerstar purred. "It's alright. I know you weren't expecting to be given this position."
Well that wasn't entirely true. Firestorm had been hoping to be made deputy. He'd been so confident that he could do much better than any other cat in the clan either way.
"Not really." Firestorm said at last. It wasn't a lie and it hid his ambition for the most part.
"Well. Maybe you should rest. Just for the rest of the day." Tigerstar said and firestorm saw that this was more of an order than a request.
"Yes." He dipped his head again before turning away. "Thank you."
Great, more time to sit and think. And then think some more. That's all he seemed to be doing for half a moon now. He needed a fight; something to focus all this pint up energy on. Firestorm almost wished to see Zanefrost again... just so he could start up their fight again. How dare Zanefrost act so high and might when the last time they'd even spoken firestorm had lost a large chunk of his left ear. Firestorm would get him back. It want his fault Falconpaw had been so foolish. He was the master of fire and no rule in any code would stop him from using his fire.

Chapter 17

Lightningheart had to fluff up his pelt against the biting chill of the wind. Sure the moor land had been his home for a while now, but he'd never experienced the bitter leafdares it brought.
"Makes you wish firestorm was here." Waterwing purred sliding closer to her mate to help keep him warm. "I can hear your teeth chattering."
"Ha ha." Lightningheart rolled his eyes. "I bet Zanefrost just loves this weather." He complained.
He watched as Whisppaw and Zappaw entered the camp with their mentors; their mouths full of prey.
"They're doing well." Waterwing said, standing so she could greet their kits. Lightningheart got up to follow her ignoring the fact that his paws were so cold he couldn't feel them.
"Nice catch! Both of you." Waterwing purred to their kits.
Whisppaw said something but In was made it so she couldn't be heard through the fur of the rabbit she was carrying.
"Thank you!" Zappaw'd had the sense to put his rabbit down before he spoke. "I think I'll take mine to the elders."
"Good idea." Lightningheart said trying in vain to keep the pride bursting from his chest; it was pointless. as he touched his nose to each of their ears in turn. "Whisppaw maybe you can give yours to Kestrelflight." He suggested.
"Okay!" Whisppaw mewed before bounding off with her rabbit.
"She jumps more than a rabbit." Zappaw grumbled before picking up his own rabbit and heading to the elder's den.
"They're growing up too fast." Waterwing said. "I wonder if this is how Zanefrost felt when his kits were training."
"We can always ask him." Lightningheart meowed touching his tail tip to her shoulder. "Next gathering you can ask firestorm about Raypaw."
Waterwing looked away, and Lightningheart could see her dig her claws into the dead grass under her paws. He knew how she felt; didn't have to ask how she was feeling or what she was thinking. Lightningheart knew this because he thought about it everyday. He felt the guilt in all ways, shapes, and forms. How could they have

given up one of their kits? Making her grow up in a nearly destroyed clan where aggression was the order of the day and cats were so needlessly cruel.
Lightningheart head to shake his head as if that would dispel the thoughts of guilt and self loathing. He rested his chin on waterwing's head and let her press her face into the fur on his chest. They no longer needed to speak of their feeling about Raypaw. Their grief and guilt had become as silent as the true behind it. Their clan mates all thought they were still in morning for the death of one of their kits. They didn't know that the Raypaw In shadow clan had once laid in a nest in the wind clan nursery.

The rest of the day passed without much trepidation. The patrols left and returned and as the sun began to cast its setting colors over the moor land Lightningheart slipped out of the camp. He made his way over the grass and through the biting cold wind. Aside from that wind the moor was in the depths of the silence of leafbare. A pair of field mice scattered as Lightningheart passed close to them but he didn't care; he wasn't out here to hunt. It wasn't long before he reached the thunder clan border and he waited searching for a glimpse of a golden tabby pelt. Goldblaze knew when and where to meet him, but it wasn't the soft gold Lightningheart saw. Breezestripe was like a piece of the night that had escaped the sky his eyes gleaming with the light of the ghost he'd once been.
"What are you doing here?" Lightningheart asked, trying not to sound too rude.
"Rude." Breezestripe muttered, clearly Lightningheart had not succeeded.
"Where's Goldblaze?" Lightningheart asked, breezestripe twitched one ear in annoyance.
"He's busy. Now shut up." The black tom closed the distance between them and spoke in a hushed voice. "Goldblaze gave me a message for you."
"Well, spit it out." Lightningheart felt his pelt prickle with irritation at the thunder clan warrior.
"There's something bad coming." Breezestripe hissed. "You've been getting the dreams like the rest of us. What ever it is it's got something to do with fire and ice."
"You mean firestorm and Zanefrost?" Lightningheart asked. He knew these dreams. He'd been having them for a few moons now.

The forest in ruin, blood coating the scorched ground, and firestorm and Zanefrost rippInc at each other with vicious tooth and claw. Their elements flying in all detections as destruction rained down on everything.
"Of course it's them." Breezestripe hissed, his tail lashing. "Are there any other cats with fire and ice that are important enough to warrant a prophecy from star clan?"
"I guess not." Lightningheart meowed, he dipped his head to the former ghost. "I'll go now." He turned and padded away. This left Breezestripe alone sinking his claws into the grass.

Chapter 18

A rattling sound could be heard above the warrior's den. A drop of cool morning dew dripped from the leaves and onto Goldblaze's head. The golden tabby warrior groaned and curled up tighter. A second then a third drop landed before he lifted his head.
"Breezestripe." He hissed under his breath at the thin black shape that was the master of wind. The tom didn't stir and Goldblaze could just make out his flanks rising and falling as he breathed.
"Breezestripe wake up." Goldblaze tried again, this time flicking a twig at his den mate.
"Gr... what..." Breezestripe grumbled, flattening his ears to his head.
"The den is leaking." Goldblaze meowed.
"Not my problem." Breezestripe mumbles settling back down into his nest.
"Breezestripe!" Goldblaze hissed again.
"Ugh... what?" Breezestripe growled. "It's not even dawn yet. Move your nest and go back to sleep."
Goldblaze watched as Breezestripe settled back into his nest, this time with his tail curled over his nose. The golden tabby sighed and with some difficulty he scooted his nest over away from the dripping leaves. From the sound outside it was clear it wasn't dew falling through the canopy of the den; it was rainy outside. When goldblaze settled back into his nest he couldn't help but think of how dismal and wet the following day was going to be.

The next time Goldblaze woke up it was to Bramblestar's voice calling from the high ledge. As this was a clan meeting it meant they all had to leave their warm nests and dry dens and brave the cold drizzling rain. A quick scan of the front row of cats told Goldblaze exactly what the subject of this meeting was.
Alari was grooming Brightkit's ruffled fur. This was an apprentice ceremony. Goldblaze felt his stomach turn as he recalled Bramblestar's promise that Brightkit would be his apprentice.
"Are you frozen?" Breezestripe's voice nearly made Goldblaze jump out of his pelt. "You're blocking the entrance. Move your tail."
"You're rather prickly today." Goldblaze said moving aside to let the

dark warrior pass.
"I don't want to miss brightkit's ceremony." Breezestripe pointed out. Guilt stabbed in goldblaze's belly. Of course Breezestripe wouldn't want to miss this. He'd been far more involved with Brightkit than Goldblaze had been. Alari was Breezestripe's mate which practically made him Brightkit's father; even if Brightkit wasn't even Alari's Kit to begin with it.
Goldblaze remembered the silver shecat who's mothered Brightkit. Sylvia... a kind cat who'd risked everything to bring her sister to a safe place to raise her kits. Sylvia had paid for her selflessness with her life. She'd been possessed by the over lord and Alari had been forced to kill her. Goldblaze could only imagine the guilt alari must feel.
"Goldblaze." Bramblestar's voice broke him from his thoughts. "You joined this clan as an outsider. You were trained by lightwhisker and other cats you traveled with. You have worked hard to embrace the ways of clan life and the code we live by. I trust you will impart these lessons to Brightpaw."
"I will." Goldblaze said without a pause. Of course he would train brightpaw. How could he say no?
Bramblestar nodded and touched his nose to brightpaw's shoulder.
"Brightpaw! Brightpaw!" The clan cheered, the loudest voices were from Alari, her daughters Rosypaw and irispaw, and Breezestripe.
Goldblaze padded over and touched noses with his new apprentice. He looked into brightpaw's three eyes. The middle one seemed to have gained a harsher silver film over the pupil. At least her other two eyes worked just as well as any other cat's.
"What are we going to do?" Brightpaw asked once the crowd of their clan mates had dispersed.
"First I'm going to show you the chores you'll be required to do now." Goldblaze said and watched as Brightpaw lost the spring in her step.
"Chores?" Brightpaw asked, reminding Goldblaze of the stories of how the other ninja had reacted when they'd had to restore the bounty. "But warriors fight! They don't do chores."
"That's not entirely true." Goldblaze twitched his whiskers in amusement. "A warrior dose a lot of things. The most important thing for you to learn is how to be adaptable."
"You sound like breezestripe when he talks about being a ninja." Brightpaw said, she scrunched up her nose. "Were you a ninja?"

"Yes, I was." Goldblaze nodded. "I was the green ninja."
"But you're not green." Brightpaw pointed out. This time Goldblaze had to stifle a chuckle.
"I know." He swipes his tail fondly over brightpaw's ears. "Now let me show you what to do."
The training went well. Moss was easy to find and the elders were thankful for it. Goldblaze couldn't help but notice that lightwhisker wouldn't meet brightpaw's gaze.
Brightpaw found the mouse bile just as revolting any other cat but handled it well. Goldblaze knew what it was like to find some training dull and unimportant. His own training had been fraught with its own difficulty and set backs.
At least Brightpaw doesn't have a prophecy hanging over her head like I did.

Chapter 19

A terrified wail ripped through the forest. Stonepool shot up in his nest. It was still nearly pitch black outside and he could here the sound of his den mates slow breathing.
"Stonepool..." owlnose mumbled sleepily, "what's wrong?"
"Nothing... just a bad dream." Stonepool couldn't see the other warrior but he knew where owlnose's nest was. "The usual one."
"About the fire?" Owlnose asked concerned.
"Yeah." Stonepool inwardly blanched, he's had to vent to someone about his dreams. He didn't want to worry Softcloud, and Owlnose was the only one he'd thought would listen.
"Are you okay?" Owlnose pressed. Unfortunately Owlnose was also the worrying sort, and couldn't let even the smallest things go.
"Of course..." Stonepool yawned. "Right now I just want to go back to sleep."
"Okay." Stonepool waited until he could here owlnose's breathing even out. He stood and carefully picked his way over his sleeping den mates and exiting the warrior's den. He cast a long glance at the nursery before he pushed his way through the reed wall of the camp. He crossed the stepping stones and when he reached the shore he caught sight of a large shape in the dark.
"Who's there?" He hissed, unsheathing his claws and lashing his tail.
The shape moved.
"Pray you never find out." Said the cold voice of a tom. "Walk away now, my qualm isn't with you warrior. I seek the three legged beast."
"Taka?" Stonepool said without thinking. Taka was the only three legged cat he knew of. He dug his claws into the ground harder.
"Well you're on river clan territory." Stonepool hissed. "This is my clan so leave before I rip your pelt off."
"Oh please." Stonepool could almost here The rouge tom roll his eyes. "You believe that you are above me you fool. I have killed many a cat far stronger than you."
Stonepool hissed and felt as the earth and rocks bent to his will. This rouge was no clan cat this wasn't against the code. He heard the tom growl as the ground under his paws trembled and crumbled

beneath him.
"I will not ask again." Stonepool growled. "Leave or I'll bury you where you stand."
With a scrambling of claws the tom ran away into the night. Stonepool took care to remember the sent he left behind. He would let mistystar know about this in the morning.

The dawn came slowly, a strong sign that the clans were in the think of leaf bare. Stonepool was glad he had a thick pelt but even with his extra fluff a strong wind would still chill his bones.
"Mistystar?" He asked peering into the leader's den. "I need to tell you something."
"What is it?" Mistystar asked hastily.
"There was a cat outside the camp last night." Stonepool told her. "A rouge tom. I didn't catch his name but he's looking for someone and I don't like the way he was sounding."
"I'll have Reedwhisker send out a patrol to find him." Mistystar said and Stonepool noticed for the first time how old his leader was.
"Okay. Should I tell them where to find his sent?" Stonepool asked.
"I'm sure they'll find it." Mistystar told him. "You should have more faith in your clan mates Stonepool."
Stonepool didn't know how to continue so he simply dipped his head and departed.
As he went off on a solo hunt he caught a glint of green in the corner of his eyes.
"Ugh... yang. What do you want?" Stonepool hissed and the ghost cat came out of hiding.
"How can you stand all this water?" Yang hissed. "You were a ghost once."
"Yeah." Stonepool growled, he watched a pair of fish swim by not wanting to look at the ghost cat. "It keeps you from bugging me so much."
Yang hissed. "I've been trying to talk to you for ages. Are you so foolish you won't except wise council?"
Stonepool whirled around to face yang, his fangs bared in a snarl. "The last time I listened to your advice the over lord was unleashed and nearly killed everyone."
"Even a wise master can be led astray by faulty information." Yang said, Stonepool shorted.
"Miss led?" He let out a derisive laugh and scraped his claws across

the stone he was standing on leaving deep claw marks. "Yeah that's rich!"
"Listen to me!" Yang growled, his ghostly fur bristling. "This comes from star clan. But they're to occupied but the fire and ice prophecy to tell the clans about it."
"Then tell me." Stonepool growled.
"You must find a six toed cat." Yang told him. "They're are still spirits trapped between life and death. They are unable to enter star clan and will remain that way until this cat is found and brought back here."
"A six toed cat?" Stonepool asked. "Why are you telling me this? I'm a warrior. If you want to go haunt someone to pass this on go find a medicine cat." He swiped his paw through yang's throat with his claws unsheathes. Because the old tom was a ghost there was no effect; but it did make Stonepool feel better. He turned back around taking care to sweep his tail through yang's ghostly form. When he could feel that the ghost tom was truly gone he returned to his hunting.
Stonepool returned to camp with a trout in his jaws and a pure rumbling in his throat. He made his way over to the nursery and dropped his gift infront of his mate.
"Thank you love." Softcloud purred. The kits were still so tiny. Sablekit was wriggling close to her mother's belly her tiny paw turning the air like she was trying to swim. Commitkit was settled between softcloud's paws and was receiving a gentle washing from her mother.
"I saw yang while I was out hunting." Stonepool told his mate. Softcloud blanched.
"But why? What did he want?" She asked, a concerned edge to her voice.
"Just the normal rambling." Stonepool said, knowing the truth would unsettle Softcloud. "He really hates water you know cause if he touches it he'll stop existing."
Softcloud purred. "Then I'll give him a good splash if I ever see him then."
Stonepool purred with amusement and touched softcloud's cheek with his muzzle. He loved her so much. He'd do anything to protect her, for whatever was out there; be it strange rouges or ghost cats with bad tempers.

Chapter 20

"look what I found!" Falconpaw cried with joy. Her head was currently hidden in a clump of tall grass her tail held high.
"What is it?" Zanefrost asked, tipping his head to the rest of their patrol; sandynose Violetshine, And Blossomheart. Falconpaw lifted her head, two large feathers in her jaws.
"They're falcon feathers!" Falconpaw purred her eye alight with awe. "Can I keep them?" She asked looking at Zanefrost hopefully. Zanefrost was slightly surprised but nodded.
"Of course." He mewed. "Do you want me to weave them into your fur?" He asked.
"Yes please." Falconpaw mewed, giving the feathers to her father. Zanefrost picked them up and began to weave the two feathers into the fur behind falconpaw's left ear.
"There." Zanefrost purred. "You look beautiful." Falconpaw puffed out her chest and strutted off to rejoin the patrol. She'd at last regained her bubbly and blunt personality after the insistent with firestorm. Though her fur would never grown back her spirit seemed to be stronger than any fire. Pineheart's kits had been made warriors at last. Dolphinleap, Orcafang, and Ottersplash had all left the camp with their father to journey to the sun drown place to meet the pack that had raised their mother clearpool.
It was clear Falconpaw missed her friends greatly but she wasn't in the habit of showing it. She was doing her best to mask her apparent loneliness with a sharp tongue and a roll of her eyes.
Zanefrost rejoined the rest of the patrol by the shadow clan border.
"Who wants to fall behind and mark the border?" Sandynose asked.
"I will." Zanefrost volunteered. And the older tom nodded and led the rest away. It wasn't long before Blossomheart stopped hefur fluffing out in fear.
"There's smoke." She hissed, and the thick clouds of scorched air began to drift the light the trees around the patrol,
"We have to warn the camp!" Violetshine meowed at once.
"I'll go!" Falconpaw offered.
"Be Swift." Sandynose ordered, And the torishell Shecat nodded before running off.

"Zanefrost can you slow down the fire?" Blossomheart asked.
"Yes." Zanefrost nodded. "But I need space you three will have to go with Falconpaw to warn the clan."
All three of them nodded and ran off to follow his daughter. The smoke was thicker now and clouded his vision and stung his eyes. But he knew what was causing this it had to be firestorm. And as he raced through the smoke to the source of the fire his mind was racing just as fast. How could this be happening now? What could have been the spark?

When Zanefrost reaches the fire he tried desperately to put it out. He coated the ground in ice and let it spread from his paws so he could walk on the chard earth without worrying about burning his paws. He looked around but he couldn't pick up firestorm's sent. Instead he found Amberpaw firestorm's daughter.
"What do you think you're doing?!" Zanefrost roared at the ginger shecat who backed up in shock.
"I-I-I was trying to catch a mouse!" Amberpaw stammered. "I missed so I got angry! Then everything I touched started to burn!"
"You have to control yourself!" Zanefrost said coming down slightly from his burst of anger. He couldn't blame Amberpaw for this. She was young and inexperienced with her power and the fire hadn't spread far so there had bee very miner damage done over all.
"Please be more careful next time." Zanefrost told her. "You merely scared all of sky clan out of our fur."
"I'm really sorry Zanefrost." Amberpaw lowered her head. "I didn't mean to..."
"I know you didn't." Zanefrost placed his tail tip on the apprentice's shoulder. "You should maybe ask your father for a few extra lessons in any case. So that next time you have better control."
"I will." Amberpaw too had inherited her father's green eyes. They were the same shade of leaf green and had the same burning pride.
A sounds of many paws came up on the two cats from both and sky clan and shadow clan side of the border. Both clans had brought a battle size patrol each cat bristling and snarling.
"Hawkstar?" Tigerstar growled. "What is the meaning of this?"
"What do you mean?"Hawkstar hissed back. "It was your apprentice that started this fire. Zanefrost stopped it."
"He crossed the border." Tigerstar unsheathed his claws his neck fur standing on end.

"Amberpaw, come away from that kittypet!" In was Lioneye. Zanefrost could here Bellaleaf hiss loudly at the insult. Amberpaw cast one last worried gaze at Zanefrost before She joined her clan mates. Zanefrost padded to Hawkstatr's side wary of turning his back on the hostile shadow clan. He had seen firestorm standing by his leader's side his green eyes filled with malus.
"I only wanted to put out the fire, Tigerstar." Zanefrost said trying to keep his voice level. "If I had done nothing-"
"You dare speak out of turn?!" It was firestorm who spoke. "What were you planning to do with my daughter once you put out the fire? Did you think you'd scar her like your own?"
Yowls Of outrage met his words from the sky clan side.
"How dare you?!" Ninjaclaw looked ready to leap at the shadow clan deputy. Zanefrost felt ice cold claws rake his heart. Could firestorm truly think so low of him? Zanefrost would never hurt Amberpaw like that. No cat deserved what Falconpaw had gone through. Least of all a cat who'd had nothing to do with it in the first place.
"You and I hold equal rank firestorm." Zanefrost managed to speak over the hissing and growling of his clan mates. "I would never scar a cat that horribly, least of all a cat who has done nothing to harm any other with out reason."
Firestorm snarled. "You May Day That now that your clan is here watching you. But we both know you aren't a saint."
This was true for any cat in the world. But it still hurt to hear these words come out of firestorm's mouth. Had the warrior forgotten all Zanefrost had done to protect others. All he'd done to protect their now split family?
"Your words could be true of any cat who has ever lived." Zanefrost stated. "You want this fight just to prove that you are in the right, and you want me to draw first blood so you can attack with your own twisted reasoning. But I won't give you that satisfaction."
"You're a coward!" Firestorm roared unsheathing his claws and getting ready to pounce. "This was once shadow clan land! I think it's time for us to take it back!" This seemed to bring his clan rallying for battle once more.
"Shadow clan attack!" Tigerstar gave the odder and his warriors sprang forward.
"Sky clan attack!" Hawkstar roared and both clans met tooth and claw. Yowls Of pain and triumph splitting the air of the once quiet

forest.
Firestorm headed right for Zanefrost. And the sky clan deputy met his challenge with the full force of his new loyalties. Firestorm had gone to far with this, using an arbitrary reason to start this fight and take revenge for an imagined wrong. Fire and ice met in battle and the fire spread quickly on the dry dead leaves left over from leaf fall. Soon the whole of the clearing was on fire and the rest of both shadow clan and sky clan retreated to escape the flames; all except three sky clan cats. Curtis was lying on the ground his blue eyes staring unseeing up at the now sunset colored sky. Taka was desperately trying to shake his friend awake, but the lean brown tom would never rise again.
"No!" Taka wailed in a yowl Of purr anguish. Keith had to stabilize his brother to keep the three legged cat from falling over. Zanefrost had to stop the fire from reaching the grieving brothers. He had to stop it from burning the whole forest down.

Chapter 21

Goldblaze could feel the elemental disturbance as a ripple through his pelt. He sank his claws into the small body of the the vile he was eating.
"What's wrong?" Sparkpelt asked him, giving his ear a soft lick.
"Something feels off." Goldblaze admitted. "I need to speak to Lightwhisker..." sparkpelt nodded and let him stand. Goldblaze quickly padded across camp to the elder's den. Stempaw and shellpaw were both changing the elder's bedding and checking them for ticks.
"Lightwhisker? Can I speak with you?" Goldblaze asked. The old tom nodded and lightly shook off stempaw as the apprentice finished with a tick on Lightwhisker's shoulders.
"You feel it too?" Lightwhisker asked once they were alone.
"Yes. What is it?" Goldblaze asked his tail lashing with fear.
"Fire and ice are at war." Lightwhisker said darkly.
"What? No! They wouldn't!" Goldblaze sunk his claws into the ground.
"They have." Lightwhisker's voice was soft and he sounded like the old tom he was for the first time.
"I'll get Breezestripe." Goldblaze said at once. "We can run and get the others!"
"No you must tell Bramblestar." Lightwhisker ordered sharply.
Goldblaze didn't dare argue and raced to Bramblestar's den. He nearly barrel into Squirrelflight.
"Goldblaze what's going on?" The Thunder clan deputy asked her already fluffy tail puffing out in alarm.
"There's and fire in sky clan's territory!" Goldblaze said without thinking. "I need to speak to Bramblestar!"
Squirrelflight nodded and Goldblaze nearly burst into the den.
"Goldblaze what's-" Bramblestar didn't get a chance to finish his question.
"There's a fire!" Goldblaze told his leader urgently feeling Squirrelflight push past him to the den. "We need to help them!"
"A fire?" Bramblestar asked.
"Yes!" Goldblaze could feel his heart trying to break free from his

chest. "I'll take Breezestripe and whoever else wants to come but we need to leave now."
"Take Breezestripe." Bramblestar conceded. "And take Brightpaw."
"But-"
"Take Brightpaw. No one else. I will not risk more Thunder clan lives. These are your cats they'll listen to you." Bramblestar said his amber eyes slightly cold but with the knowledge of the situation and who was involved. Goldblaze nodded and raced to collect Breezestripe and Brightpaw. The young shecat was nearly bouncing of the walls of the stone hollow.
"When do we get to fight?" Brightpaw asked.
"Hopefully soon." Breezestripe said as Goldblaze led the way. It wasn't kind before they met up with Lightningheart and Waterwing who'd seen the smoke from the open moor land. Stonepool showed up once they entered sky clan's territory having also spotted the smoke thanks to river clan's more open territory; he'd taken the plunge and swam across the lake to get to the other side without crossing through shadow clan territory.
"How bad do you think it is?" Waterwing asked. Goldblaze could only imagine how she felt about firestorm's involvement in this.
"Hopefully not too bad." Stonepool told her clearly trying to convene himself just as much as he was her. "The Fire hasn't spread too-"
They're reached the edge of the damage. Two cats were huddled over the body of a third.
"Oh no... that's Curtis..." Stonepool breathed racing over the Taka and Keith. Goldblaze followed Stonepool and looked at the two grieving toms.
"Where's Zanefrost?" He asked Keith. The black tom seemed to have his witts about him more so then Taka, who had his face pressed into Curtis's cold fur.
"He was trying to protect us..." Keith said solemnly. "Can someone help me with Taka? He needs a poppy seed and some sleep for the shock..."
"I'll help." Breezestripe meowed. "This is between you ninja... I should stay out of it." He reasoned.
"Okay But Keith you need to tell us what happened." Goldblaze said.
"Zanefrost tried to stop the fighting... when the fire started the rest of the clan left-" Keith was cut off by fidgetflake who came out of a clump of ferns.

"Keith! Oh thank star clan!" The young Medician cat looked around at the gathered cats before continuing. "There was so much confusion and we didn't know... oh no..." his gaze fell on Curtis's body.
"Breezestripe is going to help me with Taka... can you take curtis's body?" Keith's violet eyes were full of sadness as he looked at his distraught brother. Fidgetflake nodded and went to pick up the limp body of his fallen clanmate. Goldblaze cast one last look at Breezestripe as he and Keith helped Taka to his paws. The dark warrior's green eyes were said and sympathetic. It was a look that not long ago Goldblaze would have been shocked to see in his former enemy's eyes. Now Goldblaze trusted Breezestripe with his life.
"We have to find Zanefrost and firestorm." Waterwing said as the others vanished into the undergrowth that had been untouched by the fire.
"I found their sents this way." Stonepool said, pointing his muzzle into the direction of the shadow clan border.
"Let's go." Lightningheart meowed casting a worried look at his mate. Waterwing was stuffing at the scorched ground with her claws. *She must be think about what she'll say to firestorm when she sees him.*
The group followed the mingled sents of their friends until they can upon a gruesome sight. It was goldblaze's nightmarish vision come to life. Zanefrost and firestorm were both covered in blood. Their fur hanging in bloody torn patches. Zanefrost had his left eye scrunched Shut from the claw marks over it. Firestorm was limping on his right four leg and bleeding terribly from a wound on his shoulder. And they were still fighting. Flames sparked at firestorm's paws and ice spread from Zanefrost's as they continued to leap at each other.
"Stop this at once!" Goldblaze leaped at firestorm sending him to the scorched earth. "You have to stop this!"
"Get off me!" Firestorm growled.
"No! You're going to kill each other if you keep this up! Waterwing help me!"
"That won't be needed." It was Tigerstar. "I'm here to get my deputy. I see he fought well."
"He could have destroyed the whole forest!" Stonepool growled. "That's foolishness not bravery!"

"Shut your mouth." tigerstar hissed. "This dose not concern river clan."
"This will concern all the clans If you Keep I encouraging this kind of behavior in your warriors. Especially those who could burn down the whole forest with a thought." Goldblaze hissed. Tigerstar snarled.
"Stop!" Zanefrost shouted staggering between them. "That's enough... we can't keep fighting..."
"Zanefrost... your wounds..." Stonepool helped stabilize the heavily injured tom.
"Take firestorm and leave." Goldblaze hissed. Tigerstar nodded and helped firestorm to his paws and walked away with the dark ginger warrior. Stonepool had his tail draped over Zanefrost's back.
"Come on Let's get you home." The dark tabby meowed helping Zanefrost walk.
Goldblaze watched them go. A cold feeling spreading from his chest to his paws and all the way to his tail tip. This was how their friendship would end. Waterwing wouldn't look up from the ground and Lightningheart led her way back to wind clan. They were slipping away from each other faster than water through goldblaze's paws.

Chapter 22

Waterwing walked numbly back to wind clan territory. Her mind was still struggling to process what she'd just seen. Her brother, the strong and noble ninja who she'd fought side by side with for years had turned into an ambitious, lying brute. She feared for his kits. What would Amberpaw and ashpaw turn into with the example their father was setting? What would Lioneye do if firestorm went to far?
Waterwing hardly felt lightningHeart's tail wrapped around her shoulder or the soft tickle of the grass on her muzzle as they pushed through the entrance to the camp. The pale last light of sunset was just fading as they settled into their shared nest in the warrior's den. They didn't need to speak to know that both of them needed each other's comfort. Waterwing worries for taka. The white tom had just lost his dear friend, and she hope Curtis would make his way safely to star clan.
Waterwing curled up close to Lightningheart, pressing her face into his thick chest fur. She felt his chin rest on her forehead, and though she didn't expect it to ever come sleep found her and swept her away.

Waterwing opened her eyes to see a star lit forest. Looking around she felt the warmth of green leaf and smelled fresh herds and plentiful prey animals.
"Star clan?" She said out loud.
"Yes." A kind voice mewed. Waterwing whirled around to see a sliver and white tabby shecat. Her clear blue eyes shon like pools of moon lit water, Her pelt shimmering like star light on water.
"Clearpool?" Waterwing has only met the skyclan shecat once before she'd died. The said cat nodded.
"Yes waterwing." Clearpool diPoe's her head in respect to the other shecat. "And do not fret. You have nothing to fear, you are merely walking here in your dreams."
"So... I'm not dead?" Waterwing shifted her paws on the glittering grass.
"Of course not." Clearpool purred, "Come, I need to show you

something."
Waterwing nodded and followed clearpool as she padded away through the shimmering undergrowth. Star clan was beautiful. Everything seemed to be alight with stars and moon light. The forest was not the one the clans lived in now but it seemed like home with each paw step waterwing took.
"Where are we going?" Waterwing asked clearpool after a bit of walking.
"It's a very special place." Clearpool mewed, And continued to lead on. It was a while longer before clearpool stopped at a place full of many star lit cats. A flame colored tom crossed their path giving both she cats a polite nod before joining a sandy colored She cat on the other side of the clearing.
"Is Curtis here?" Waterwing asked, glancing around for the slender dark brown tom.
"He has not made his journey yet." Clearpool told her. "He will come after his clan as sat vigil for him." She explained.
"Why am I here?" Waterwing asked.
"There is something you must know." Clearpool said. "This message comes from the pack's ancestors and I have carried it here with me." The she cat's eye turned a solid glowing silver and a cool misty voice came from her mouth. "When fire and ice collide great pain will be brought. When earth and water choose sides the forest will divided. And when energy looses greatly, darkness will raise a storm to shake even the mountains."
Bodies of cats began to close in on waterwing and the beauty of star clan's forest began to fade to blackness. It was like the combined mass of the whole forest was pressing in and inclosing her inside of it. *I'm being buried alive!* Waterwing tried to move but she was frozen in place unable to even twitch her whiskers.
"Help!" Waterwing waled, sending moss and feathers flying from her nest as she kicked out with all four paws.
"Waterwing!" Lightningheart tried to comfort his distraught mate but she continued to whimper and shake. It took a while for waterwing to calm down again. "Shh. It's okay you're safe." Lightningheart meowed softly placing his tail over waterwing's shoulders. She pressed her muzzle into his chest fur and breathed in his warm familiar sent. The new prophecy was weighing heavy on her heart but she couldn't bare to repeat the words just yet.

Chapter 23

Zanefrost felt a feather tickle his nose and his shifted in his nest and tucked his tail over his nose. His shoulder still ached from where firestorm had wrenched it durning their fight and his fur was patched from where chunks of it had been ripped out.
He could hear Frecklewhish and Fidgetflake moving around and shifting herbs. It had only been a day Since the fire and Zanefrost was still sleeping in the medicine cat's den due to the severity of his injuries.
"Zanrfrost?" He could feel Frecklewish's gentle touch as she spoke. "Bellaleaf has brought a squirrel for you to share."
Zanefrost lifted his head almost at once though he winced as it twinged his shoulder.
"How are you feeling?" Bellaleaf asked him touching her nose to his after she set the squirrel down.
"As well as I can." Zanefrost meowed. "How are the kits?" He asked her. Even though they weren't kits any more Zanefrost still referred to his first litter in that way.
"Birchfrost And Ninjaclaw are both fine, just a few cuts." Bellaleaf told him. "Falconpaw is resting under the ferns. But she's fine just tired."
"And everyone else?" Zanefrost pressed. "What about you?" He hadn't had a chance to check on her or his clan mates and the guilt was eating away at his insides.
"We're alright." Bellaleaf purred giving his cheek a gentle lick. Her expression was soft and loving as she gazed into his eyes. "I'm alright don't worry."
"I'm just asking." Zanefrost mewed. "I was worried because I care."
"I know you do." Bellaleaf purred. She knew that Zanefrost wasn't like other cats and she loved him all the more for it; his social ineptitude and all. "Now this squirrel isn't going to eat itself." They both dipped their heads over the fresh kill and ate in silence. After they licked the last of the squirrel from their whiskers Bellaleaf tried to groom Zanefrost's fur though only time would straighten out the missing patches.
"Do you want to rest?" Bellaleaf asked.

"A bit." Zanefrost mewed sleepily.
"Alright." Bellaleaf gave him one last lick on his ear. "Rest well my love." Her purr was soft and full of love as she backed away from her mate. Zanefrost loved her just as much, more than he'd ever loved anyone. Even pixal. Sure he'd loved her but it wasn't the pure love he now shared with Bellaleaf. He and pixal had been too similar, and their relationship had been based purely on that. Zanefrost still cared for pixal even now that she walked in the place of no stars.

That thought chased Zanefrost into his dreams, and soon his was standing in a starlit clearing. The warm breeze ruffled his fur and he made his way to the edge of the trees. He caught a familiar sent and followed it his heart leaping.
When he reached an over hang of rock he spotted two toms waiting for him.
"Father! Master Garmadon!" Zanefrost leaped into the cleft of rock to join them.
Garmadon's dark grey tabby was glittering with star light now unlike the last time Zanefrost had seen him. Julian moved to touch his nose to his son's ear.
"Welcome." The brown tom mewed. "Come there's someone you must see."
Zanefrost followed the two star lit cats as they left the rocks. He realized that this must be how sky clan territory looked back in the old forest before it had been destroyed. The faded spirits of other cats mingled with the trees and rocks. Zanefrost caugh a glimpse of Leafstar sitting along side a silver shecat and a dark ginger tom. *That must be Echosong and Sharpclaw.* Tanking a second look he recognized the silver tabby medicine cat and her kind eyes. Zanefrost could see many other cats, cats who'd been lost on their journey to the lake. Julian and Garmadon stopped in front of a beautiful white and brown shecat. Though Zanefrost had never met her he recognized Pebbleshine.
She dipped her head to dismiss the other two toms. Zanefrost watched his father and old teacher go before turning back to Pebbleshine.
"They said you wanted to talk to me." Zanefrost said dipping his head respectfully.
"I do." Pebbleshine nodded. "Hawkstar told me when he came to

receive his nine lives that he wanted you to be his deputy. Never mind that you'd not yet trained an apprentice."
Zanefrost felt his pelt grow hot. Hawkstar has gone against the warrior code to name him clan deputy. He knew once tinycloud's kits were six moons old that one of them would be made his apprentice but the thought still made him uncomfortable. Whatever flaws firestorm had he at least had been named deputy in the way recognized by the warrior code.
"You need not fear though." Pebbleshine said. "Sky star himself said that there was no better cat for the job." Her kind eyes fluttered with star light. "You have the blessing of star clan."
"Is there something wrong?" Zanefrost asked her. He knew there had to be something.
"Have you walked in any dreams with Pixal?" Pebbleshine asked.
This took zanefrost aback. He hadn't even smelled so much as a whiff of pixal's sent in his dreams sense yellowfang had chased her into the dark forest and he told Pebbleshine just as much.
"I had to ask." The star clan cat mewed kindly, "we haven't seen much of her other than her trying to disrupt Clearpool's journey to our skies."
"Why would she want to do that?" Zanefrost asked in horror. Clearpool had been a victim of the Over Lord when he'd walked in the shadows of the clans; she'd never even known that pixal had been alive let alone ever seen her.
"We do not know." Pebbleshine said. "We're afraid of what she might do if left alone but no star clan cat can safely walk into the dark forest." Zanefrost nodded to show that he understood. "You must watch your clan mates and the cats of other clans closely."
"I'll try my best but what should I look for?" Zanefrost asked.
"Any adversity to star clan and the warrior code. Even high aggression toward sky clan." Pebbleshine told him. "If her behavior is any indication she wants to take revenge on you for loving Bellaleaf and having kits with her. You have done nothing wrong but her rage may bolt out all of star clan."
Zanefrost let those words sink in. Even as the dream faded and he woke in his nest of bracken and feathers back in the medicine cat's den. He could almost feel the hot angry gaze of pixal on his back as he looked up through the ferns to the stars of silver pelt. *We continue to loose what use to make us who we were in ninjago. Our friendships and morals continued to be tested... I don't know how much*

longer we can go on like this...